

Dr. Bessie Moses Believes Prejudice Against Women In Medicine Is Less

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BELIEVES PREJUDICE AGAINST WOMEN IN MEDICINE DIMINISHING

By SIDNEY KOBRE

Women have a greater opportunity today in the medical profession than ever before. This is the opinion of Dr. Bessie L. Moses, one of Baltimore's 25 women physicians.

"The prejudice against them is diminishing rapidly," she said. "They get better internships in hospitals and therefore better training. This is true on the Atlantic seaboard, but it is even more marked in the Mid-West and the West."

Dr. Moses pointed out that women physicians now have not only secured better opportunities in hospitals, but they have won the confidence of women patients to a greater degree. She believes, however, that women physicians still have to work twice as hard as men with the same ability in order to build up a practice.

Dr. Moses is attractive and tall. She wears her deep black hair parted in the middle. In her office her manner is friendly and cordial, but her mind is exacting and scientific. Her white linen coat adds a professional touch to her appearance. She speaks clearly and accurately, interrupting the conversation to get correct dates about her career, and the titles and names of persons and places connected with her maternal health work here.

The physician had an early interest in medicine. Baltimore-born, as a young girl she lived in Arlington and walked with her sisters to school, then located over an

ancient grocery store at Garrison and Forest Park Aves. Bessie graduated from Western High in 1911. At Goucher College she developed a strong interest in science, and after her graduation in 1915, took an extra year of graduate work in biology at Johns Hopkins University.

Her interest in medicine was intense. But the young college graduate had two obstacles to surmount: Lack of money and her father's opposition. He was a business man.

Teaching was thought suitable for a girl, and her sister had already entered this field. The young biologist, therefore, accepted a teaching position, first at Newcomb College, in New Orleans, and then at Wellesley College, in Massachusetts.

Later she acquired enough money, won over her father and entered the Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1918.

The young doctor, receiving her diploma in 1922, interned at Hopkins Hospital, then to broaden her experience, went to the Women's Hospital in Philadelphia. This institution has an all-woman staff, with even women surgeons operating.

Dr. Moses began her practice in Baltimore in 1924. Later she became connected with the maternal health center on Broadway, organized in 1927. These centers began to spread, and today she is director of centers on Broadway, McCulloh St. and in Ellicott City, which serves Howard County. She is on the staffs of the Sinai and Hopkins Hospitals.

Dr. Moses plays tennis at the Walbrook Oval, or on the courts of her friends. She enjoys going to the theater "whenever a play comes to Baltimore." One of her closest friends is Dr. Lucille Libberles, also a Baltimore physician.